

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 054174

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ORIGIN NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SS-20

NSC-07 SPC-03 /054 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/EGY:MSTERNER:CEK

APPROVED BY NEA - MR DAVIES

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R 190021Z MAR 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 054174

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, EG, LE

SUBJECT: ALLEGED NEW SCHEME FOR SUEZ CANAL DEVELOPMENT

REFERENCE: CAIRO 1298

1. DETWILER IS FAST-TALKING ENTREPRENEUR WHO HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN VARIOUS SCHEMES OF MINERAL DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICAN COUNTRIES AND WHO HAS LONG BEEN PUSHING A GRANDIOSE PLAN FOR NEW CANAL TO BE DUG EAST OF PRESENT CANAL. HE CALLED ON ASSISTANT SECRETARY DAVIES LAST YEAR PRIOR TO OCTOBER WAR WHEN HE AGAIN PRESENTED SCHEME SUPPORTED BY ELABORATE ENGINEERING STUDIES. WE ARE UNABLE TO JUDGE TECHNICAL MERITS OF DETWILER'S PROPOSAL FOR NEW CANAL, BUT WE HAVE IMPRESSION THAT DETWILER WOULD NOT BE BEYOND EXAGGERATING OR DISTORTING THE NATURE OF HIS CONTACTS WITH USG TO LEAVE EGYPTIANS WITH IMPRESSION THAT HIS SCHEME HAD SOME FORM OF USG ENDORSEMENT. IN SHORT, WE BELIEVE WE SHOULD PROCEED CAUTIOUSLY IN DEALING WITH DETWILER AND THAT SUITABLE OPPORTUNITY SHOULD BE TAKEN BY EMBASSY TO MAKE IT KNOWN TO GOE THAT WHILE DETWILER HAS PRESENTED HIS IDEAS AT VARIOUS TIMES IN THE PAST TO THE DEPARTMENT NO REPEAT NO USG ENDORSEMENT OR COMMITMENT HAS BEEN MADE. KISSINGER
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Message Attributes

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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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